the front cover plate **45**. The front cover plate **45** shields the pivotal mechanism of elements **42** and **48** in the preferred embodiment but it is obvious that it is not essential to the utility of the invention.

FIGS. **3** and **3***a* illustrate in detail the first or forward inner gap shielding means **50** extending over the gap between the door edge **31'** and the casing side wall **21'**. The shield **50** comprises a generally rectangular panel **51** formed of a sheet of relatively stiff, but slightly flexible material such as heavy vinyl or polyvinyl stock. In the preferred embodiment one vertical edge **52** is securely fastened to the sidewall **21'** and closure strip **24** of the casing. The opposite vertical edge **52'** of the shield **50** is, in the preferred embodiment, slidably mounted behind a retaining means **55** on the front surface of the door near the hinged edge. The retaining means **55** as illustrated is a box-type receptacle formed of stock molding strips **56** overlying a stationary face panel **57**, all of which are spaced slightly away from the door surface to form a channel **58** through which the shield **50** slides. When the door **30** is opened the shield **50** slides with respect to the retainer **55** to extend over the gap between the door and casing. As the door is closed, the shield **50** slides forwardly into the retainer **55**. A plurality of slots **59** are cut into an intermediate portion of the panel **51** and are slidably mounted over retaining pins **54** which extend through strips **56** and into door **30** to prevent the panel **51** from slipping completely out of the retainer **55**. The slots **59** are cut to a length sufficient to allow the door to open fully without being impeded by the shield panel **51**.

The second or rearward shield means **60** illustrated in FIG. **4** comprises a flexible panel of sheet material such as used for the front shield **50**. The shield **60** is a generally rectangular vertically elongated panel fixedly attached along one vertical edge **61** to the casing sidewall, and along the opposite vertical edge **62** to the rear surface of the door adjacent the hinged edge.

As an alternative approach to the checking device **40** the soft edge member **70** (FIG. **5**) comprises an elongated portion of very soft rubber or plastic material insert along a substantial portion of the unhinged edge of the door. Although not limited to such height, the soft member **70** in the preferred embodiment extends downwardly at least from the door knob **80** to the lower edge of the door. To install the member **70**, a selected portion of the door edge **31** is cut away and the member **70** mounted therein. The member **70** is formed of any inner piece **72** of foam material and a protective covering **74** of flexible plastic or textile material, attached at the edges to door **30**. While foam is presently contemplated, it should be recognized that other materials such as rubber, or a hollow yieldable cap might be used with or without a protective covering. The soft edge **70** should be of approximately the same thickness and height dimensions as the edge portion removed from the door. When properly mounted the soft edge will significantly reduce the chances of injury due to catching a hand between the door and casing wall. From any angle a hand or finger may be extracted from between the yieldable bumper **70** and the casing wall **21**. It is merely a matter of pushing the bumper aside and withdrawing the hand without injury.

The checking means **40** and the soft edge member **70** are both considered to be free side protective means for preventing closure of at least a major portion of the free side of the door panel against the casing **20**. Therefore both are for the purpose of preventing injury when catching a hand or fingers between the free door side **31** and casing wall **21**. Therefore ordinarily only one of those devices would be installed on the same door as they are alternative approaches. However, for illustrative purposes the door in FIG. **1** is shown with both devices **40** and **70** mounted thereon.

While a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been described herein other and further modifications may be made without department from the scope of the claims outlined below.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a door structure of the type including a casing or frame surrounding a door panel which is hinged along one side leaving the other side free to open and close, said door structure adapted for use in nurseries, kindergartens and the like, and including a plurality of protective devices therein including:

(a) a first shield means for covering the inner gap between the forward edge of the hinged side of the door and the casing, said first shield means comprising a vertically elongated, relatively stiff, but slightly flexible panel member having one lateral edge fixedly attached to said casing wall, a pocket means positioned on the inner surface of said door panel for retaining the opposite lateral edge of said flexible panel slidably within said pocket means, with the central area of the elongated panel covering said inner gap at all times during opening and closing of the door;

(b) a second shield means for covering the outer gap between the rear edge of the hinged side of the door and the casing, said second shield means comprising a vertically elongated, substantially flexible panel member having one lateral edge fixedly attached adjacent to the rear edge of the hinged side of the door and the opposite lateral edge attached to the door casing, the central portion of said panel member covering said outer gap at all times during opening and closing of the door;

(c) a free side protective means for preventing inadvertent closure of the free side of the door against the door casing;

(d) said free side protective means comprising a door stop means mounted to the front or inner surface of said door adjacent the upper portion of the free side thereof, said stop means including a checking element pivotally connected thereto for movement between a first cocked position and a second blocking position between the free side of the door and the casing;

(e) said checking element including a freely swinging member pivotally attached at one end about a pivot shaft, the center of said gravity in said cocked position being located above and toward the free side of said door from said pivot shaft and the edge of said swinging member resting against said casing whereby, upon opening of said door, said checking element drops to its second blocking position.

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